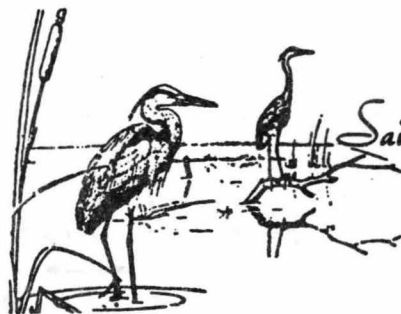


*Baldetruck*



*Saint Louis Audubon*

*Bulletin*

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Volume 42, Number 6

April - May, 1977

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#### ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Sesquicentennial Room  
St. Louis University

May 16, 1977  
6:00 p.m.

The St. Louis Audubon Society is fortunate to have secured another excellent program for its annual dinner meeting - MORE THAN TREES - latest film from the Department of Conservation of Missouri. This is the work of biologist film-makers Charles and Elizabeth Schwartz and Glenn Chambers. All who have seen the previous Schwartz films know that this will be a real artistic and scientific treat. The script was written by James Keefe.

MORE THAN TREES is an aesthetic study of a year in the forest, of happenings both above and below ground. It travels from the microscopic to the huge, from bacteria to trees, from earthworms to hawks. Tiny fly larvae dance in a rain-water bowl formed by a stump. Acorns sprout in soil enriched by earthworms, and seedlings shoulder each other for sunlight in openings left by their fallen elders. We will see that there is much more to a forest than generally meets the eye - a quiet cycle of plant and animal life that is worth sharing this globe with.

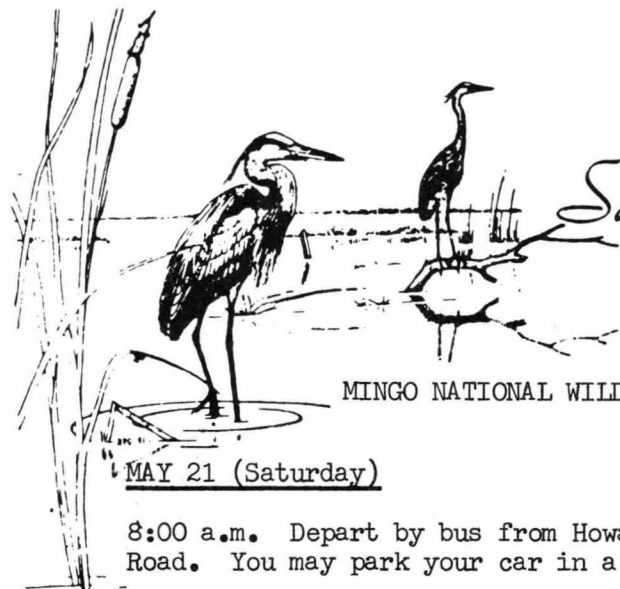
With so many of Missouri's forests under pressure from developers and in danger of being weakened by pollution, this film is particularly timely. Thousands of acres disappear each year to make room for monotonous plains of concrete and grass

Dr. Mildred Trotter, chairman of the nominating committee, will present a slate of officers and directors for the election at this meeting. All members are invited to send suggestions for officers and directors to her at 18 South Kingshighway, Apt. 8T, 63108.

A light and pleasant note will be provided by Clare Condon's delightful playing and singing.

SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS AND RESERVATION SLIP

Get Your Reservations in Early



## Saint Louis Audubon Society

LAST CALL  
Reservations and checks must  
be received by April 15th.

### MINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TOUR

#### MAY 21 (Saturday)

8:00 a.m. Depart by bus from Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, 1200 South Kirkwood Road. You may park your car in a designated area.

12: noon. Arrive at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge for a picnic lunch.

Following lunch, go through the visitor center, walk a portion of the trail system and drive through part of the area. Guides will be provided.

4:30 p.m. Board bus for motel over-night in Poplar Bluff. Following an "Attitude Adjustment Hour", dinner will be served at the motel.

The evening program will be provided by staff members of Mingo National Wildlife Refuge giving a special insight into the area. There will be a question and answer period and suggestions for picture taking.

#### MAY 22 (Sunday)

8:30 a.m. After breakfast on your own, board bus for return visit to Mingo.

After this last visit to Mingo, and a check of sights and sounds missed on Saturday, board the bus for return to St. Louis. A late lunch stop will be made, and if desired a short walking tour of Ste. Genevieve.

The trip will be an educational experience for the novice as well as seasoned nature buffs. LIMITED to 38, so reservations must be made quickly.

Tear off bottom of this sheet and mail with your check, \$48.00 per person, to Connie Hath, Executive Director, 2109 Briargate Lane, Kirkwood, Mo. 63122..965-8642.

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#### RESERVATION FOR MINGO TOUR

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Name, address, zip code and telephone number

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Number of persons

Check enclosed for \$48.00 for each person. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

by- Emily Norcross

It's been a rugged winter far above Cayuga's waters, but a small fraction of Ithaca's population, accompanied by some "friends of friends", spent ten warm and happy days in the southern Caribbean.

Cornell's Alumni University Continuing Education department sponsored a trip to Trinidad and Tobago led by Dr. Douglas Lancaster, head of the Ornithological Laboratory.

Three St. Louisans, Erna Eisendrath, Henrietta Lammert and I, were fortunate to be among the 19 members of the group. The flora and fauna of the tropical rain forests, the fresh and salt water marshes, and the reefs of these islands offered treasures richer to us than pirate gold! Our fellow travelers were great companions, and swimming off Robinson Crusoe beaches and in mountain pools added delicious fillips to the trip.

Most of the time was spent in Trinidad. Our headquarters was the Asa Wright Nature Center, 1200 feet high in the mountains of the Northern Range. The Center, an estate growing cocoa, coffee and citrus fruits, is now operated as a Trust to provide a study area relating to tropical wildlife. The nineteenth century estate house with its twenty foot high ceilings and wide screened verandas was our home away from home. It was home also to honey creepers, humming birds, tanagers and bananaquits that perched on feeders or hovered over the garden flowers so close to us we needed no binoculars to watch them.

Flowering Immortelle trees formed the 100 foot high canopy of the forest. Beneath them were cecropias, bread fruits, and many trees with wide spreading buttresses. Philodendron vines, coffee bushes, tree ferns, and flowering plants of the heliconia and poinsettia families grew in the under story. It was a paradise for the two botanists in the group and a challenging distraction to the birders.

We chalked up over 150! Trogons and toucans were decidedly spectacular but the most dramatic sight in Trinidad is the famed flight of the scarlet ibis returning by the hundreds each evening at sunset to roost in the mangroves of one small island in the Caroni swamp.

Our local guides were instinctively knowing about the wildlife. In Tobago, Adolphus led us up a dirt tract, or "trace" to a spot in the forest where we could find the turquoise tanager. He whistled softly, like the pygmy owl, and within a few moments the tanager dutifully appeared. While on Trinidad, Lawrence took us to one certain tree where he called to the pygmy owl, and the owl himself appeared, as promised. For ten minutes we mortals and the bird exchanged round eyed stares!

The oddest bird watching I have ever done was spying on the oil bird. This strange and all but extinct species, related to the nightjar, nests in caves, and one of its few colonies is a cave on the Asa Wright estate.

From the garden we descended by trail to the cave, waded through a mountain stream to its entrance, climbed down a ladder and found ourselves eye to eye with the birds whose nests clung to the rock walls. There was much fluttering of wings, much flying hither and yon, but it was not us who disturbed them. They were viewing with each other for "lebensraum".

As we climbed back up the steep trail we reached the area of the white bearded mannikin. He is a compulsive lover! He courts 90% of the daylight hours. He clears a court on the forest floor, and leaps from stem to stem of the surrounding saplings, fanning out his wings which produces a clicking sound.

The high light of our brief stay on Tobago was an afternoon spent at Grafton Estate with Mrs. Eleanor Alefounder whose veranda feeders attract chachalacas, woodpeckers, and motmots. She graciously serves cake and punch to her visitors, and provides cheese to be offered to the birds. I have fed pigeons in St. Mark's Square in Venice, but that does not hold a candle to having a blue crowned motmot, sporting two long tail feathers like a pair of pendulums, daintily remove a piece of cheddar from between ones fingers!

Michael McHugh of the Cornell staff brought down T shirts as presents for our guides. Emblazoned across the chest- "We're for the Birds". And we were, too!



White-bearded Manakin

## JAMES EARL COMFORT

James Earl Comfort passed away February 20, 1977 in the St. Louis Veterans Administration Hospital.

Earl was a native of Pana, Illinois, one of seven brothers and sisters of whom a brother, Charles, survives. He was a retired grocer and lived in Kirkwood.

For many years Earl wrote the column, "Observations" for the St. Louis Audubon Society Bulletin. Earl, possibly more than any other person in the St. Louis area, kindled the interest in birds in the eyes and minds of young and old alike. He remained an active birder until just a few days before his death. "Observations" in the Bulletin will now be written by one of Earl's former students, Jack VanBenthuyzen.

Earl Comfort was a gentle and patient soul who led us all. A note to the St. Louis Audubon Society with a memorial contribution sums up the esteem and devotion with which birders and naturalists had for Earl. The writer, a former board member who had served on the Audubon Board with Earl says, "How sorry I was to hear of his death. He was loved by so many, and oh, how he loved his birds and his Audubon Society! I do not know his family, but would appreciate your forwarding this note so as to add my thoughts to others, in expressing our loss".

Earl can never truly be replaced and his contributions were matchless.

CLH



IMPORTANT MEETING APRIL 1 8:00 P.M. ETHICAL SOCIETY, 9001 CLAYTON ROAD

Farallon Light, an award-winning ecology film about Farallon Islands National Wildlife Area in the Pacific, just west of the Golden Gate. This area is now being threatened because the lighthouse is being automated and the lighthouse keepers will no longer be there to protect this unique area.

Following the film showing, John D. Lark will present: Weldon Spring: A Proposal for a Regional Environmental Education Center. This Center would be located on the 8000 acre tract given to Missouri University by the Government in 1948, with the stipulation that it be used for educational purposes for 20 years. Mr. Lark's proposal was prepared under auspices of Coalition for the Environment because of concern about the University's intention to sell the tract, in whole or part, for commercial development. Acquiring the tract for use as an environmental education center, nature sanctuary and outdoor recreation area should be exciting to St. Louisans, since it is not more than 45 minutes from any part of our metropolitan area.





## OBSERVATIONS

by Jack Van Benthuisen

January 1st - Edgar Denison and Don Menke reported a golden eagle. Joe Eades and Ron Goetz ranged far and wide within the area to list sixty-seven birds to start off the new year, including many that still hadn't been driven south by the snow cover.

January 4th - Kyrle Boldt and Earl Comfort found twenty pheasants foraging in a corn field in St. Charles County.

January 6th - Eleven observers visited St. Charles County and nearby Illinois and found eleven species of ducks, including a greater scaup.

January 7th - Dave Easterla and Mark Robbins reported two kittiwakes on the Mississippi River at the old Chain of Rocks Bridge.

January 8th - Joe Eades, Dave Jones and Dave Symes found a Barrow's golden-eye and a glaucous gull in the same area along the river.

January 12th - Paul Bauer found a snowy owl being tormented by some crows north of the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation complex near Eva and Frost Avenue. This elusive "no showy snowy" was immediately put on the "hotline" and seven of the Thursday group hunted in vain the following day. On Friday, Pat McCormick again found the owl, and so again the following day fifty birders thoroughly searched the area without results. It was also seen on the 16th, 18th, 25th and 26th, but each time by a single observer in the same general area.

January 30th - George and Terry Barker had a Bohemian waxwing in their backyard. After word spread through the "hotline", a few fortunate observers were rewarded the following day. There were many cedar waxwings also in this area due to an abundance of cedar and hawthorn berries.

George Barker also commented on the disappearance of Carolina wrens because of the heavy snowfall that had covered the ground so long. This wren is particularly vulnerable because it is a permanent resident that feeds so close to the ground. In such cold weather many parish and therefore the population of this cheerful little wren varies. It seems like only a few years ago that we noticed a scarcity of this species.

In general, January produced several outstanding birds. The Barrow's golden-eye and snowy owl heading the list. The heavy snows and frozen rivers prevented attempts to relocate the varied thrush found in late December in Calhoun County, Illinois. But such finds as golden eagle, glaucous gull, kittiwake and Bohemian waxwing rewarded diligent birders that braved the elements. It seemed strange that with such severe weather throughout the midwest, that none of the

wandering finches were reported; especially after their appearance in the milder winters we have had recently. The various people who feed the birds thistle, all comment about the absence of the pine siskin this year. In fact, Connie Hatch is the only person to date who has reported siskins at her feeder. The snow did force many horned larks and Lapland longspurs to scratch for grit along the gravel roads in the farm areas.

February 17th - The Thursday group did it again. This time they found a prairie falcon in a deserted field beside a farm near Smart Field in St. Charles County. This bird was immediately entered into the "hotline" network for the weekend birders. We are certainly fortunate to have this group go out faithfully each week and pinpoint all the good birds currently in the area.

February 21st - I went out at daybreak to find the prairie falcon, only to find Viola Bucholtz already parked along the road at the reported spot. No falcon was to be found at first, but there were at least twenty bald eagles roosting in various large trees around the farm. Of these eagles only two were adults. We both drove over some of the nearby roads for about fifteen minutes and when we returned the prairie falcon was perched atop his favorite dead tree. Later that morning, I found a male white-winged scoter at Portage Des Souix. Further down the road I passed the news of the scoter onto Viola who retraced her path and also found it. The ducks were really beginning to pass through with canvasback and scaup predominating. Pintail and a wood duck gave evidence that the dabbling ducks were beginning to head north. In the afternoon, Paul Bauer and Dick Anderson also found the prairie falcon, still on the same perch. Paul said that he was able to put his new Celestron telescope into use with his camera and hopefully got some good pictures.

February 22nd - A trip to Wehner Memorial Park in Shrewsbury at the north edge of Kenrick Seminary around 6:00 p.m. resulted in my first woodcock of the spring. I really consider the woodcock as one of the highlights each spring. The nasal "peent" sound, much like the nighthawk, and the twittering noise it makes are unmistakable. But experts argue back and forth as to whether this twittering noise is made by the voice or by the wings. I believe it is made by the wings, for I once heard it from about fifteen feet as a male recklessly volplaned down almost onto my head in his courtship performance. What a pleasure to see such a display from a bird so secretive the rest of the year. A pair of screech owls were but shadowy forms as they flew mothlike ahead of me as I hunted through the darkening woods.

February 27th - The Schaeffer's saw a golden eagle at Stump Lake at Pere Marquette. Also, Viola Bucholtz reported twenty-five Lapland longspurs at Smart Field, two horned grebes at Portage Des Souix, four red-breasted mergansers at Harbor Point and six greater scaup at Alton Villa.

The bird of the month for February was the prairie falcon, and a very considerate bird it was. It obliged many by perching atop that dead tree and often flying off in pursuit of its prey. It is a masterful flier!

THE SMALL (harmless) SNAKES OF THE  
MISSOURI OZARKS

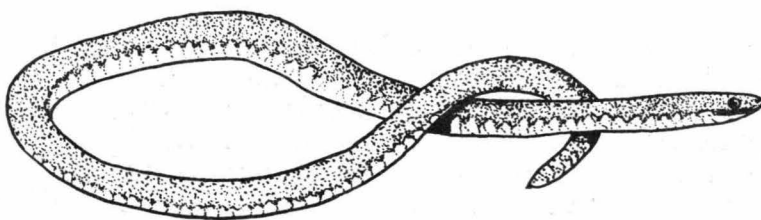
by- TOM R. JOHNSON

When told that Missouri is blessed with over 50 species and subspecies of snakes, people may react in a variety of ways; some are surprised or even bewildered, while others may not believe it at all. The fact is we have a great variety of snakes in this state because of Missouri's geographic location. The prairies, rolling hills, Ozark uplands, and the Mississippi River lowlands combine to furnish habitat for snakes of many sizes, kinds and habits - as well as a few venomous species.

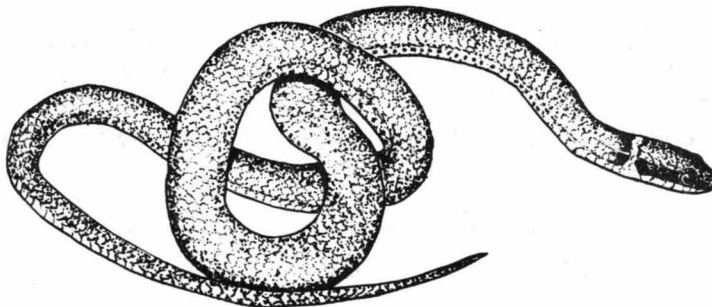
The type of snakes presented here have a number of things in common. They are all of small size (usually under 12 inches); they are all secretive reptiles- seldom venturing out from hiding; they all require rocky, wooded hillsides for their habitat and they all generally eat the same food- worms, slugs, insect eggs and larvae.

Because of their secretive nature, they are seldom seen, and some people may spend a life time in the Ozarks and never see more than one or two species. These small snakes will usually live under flat rocks, logs, or boards, and will often select a shelter which has some moist sand or soil beneath it. People who do find these completely defenseless little snakes will often kill them on sight- usually thinking that they are 'baby rattlers or baby copper-heads'. Many of these snakes are not restricted to the Ozarks, but have a wider range in this state.

**WESTERN WORM SNAKE** (*Carphophis amoenus vermis*). Length from 7 - 11 inches. Coloration plain brown above and salmon pink underneath. Makes its home in damp soil under rocks, logs, etc., or in leaf litter. When held in the hand, the worm snake will try to push between the fingers and may prick the skin with its spine-like tail (which is harmless). Ranges over most of Missouri.

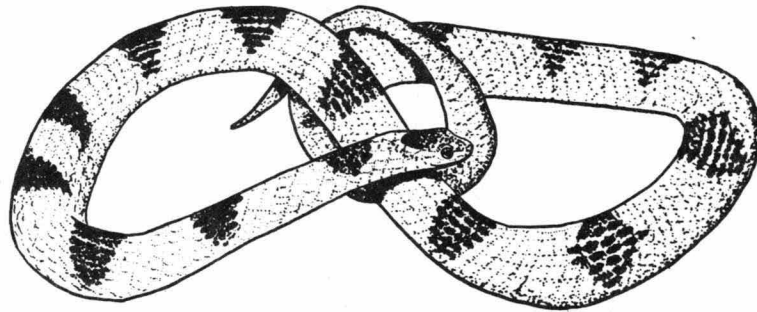


**PRAIRIE RINGNECK SNAKE** (*Diadophis punctatus arnyi*). Length 10 - 14 inches. Usual coloration is black or brownish on top and yellow or orange-yellow below. Belly has an irregular pattern of small black spots. The ring around the neck is yellowish. Besides the usual food listed above, the ringneck snake is also known to eat small salamanders. Ranges over most of Missouri.

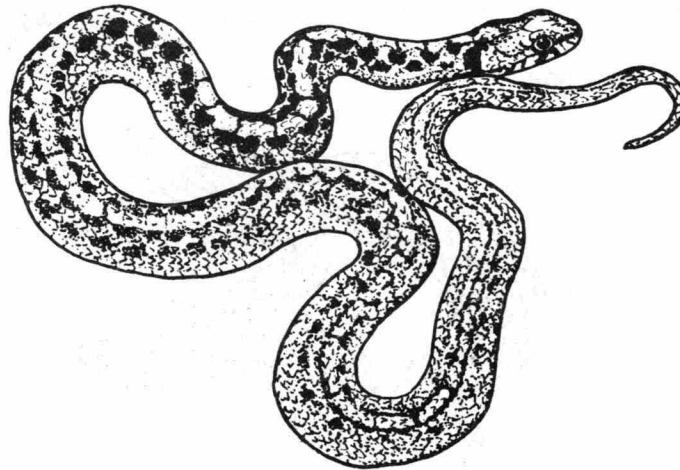




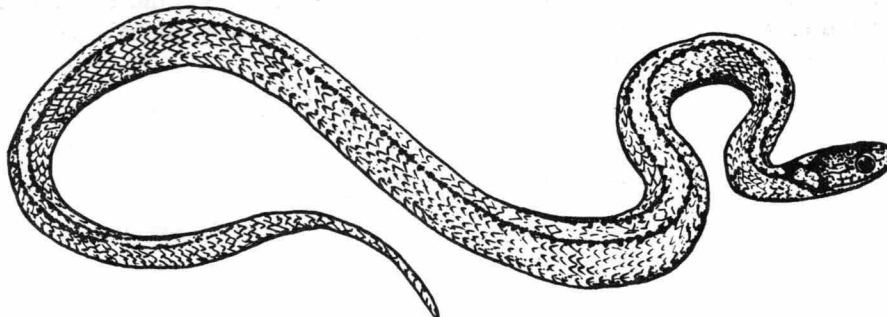
GREAT PLAINS GROUND SNAKE (*Sonora espicopa episcopa*). Length 9 - 12 inches. This attractive snake may vary in coloration from tan to yellowish-tan to red. The number of bands may also vary from none at all to over 25. The belly is a plain cream color. This species is more likely found on hill tops and cedar glades. In Missouri it is restricted to the southwestern corner of the state.



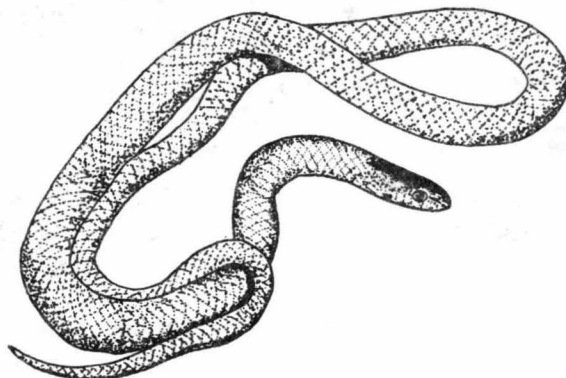
MIDLAND BROWN SNAKE (*Storeria dekayi wrightorum*). Length 9 - 13 inches. General coloration may be gray, tan or brown. The back has a double row of dark brown or black spots. The belly is yellowish or pinkish. Habitat from wooded rocky hillsides to city empty lots. Ranges all over Missouri.



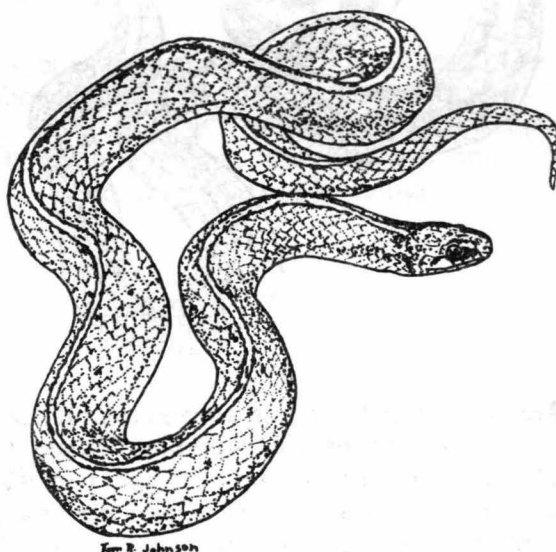
RED-BELLIED SNAKE (*Storeria occipitomaculata*). Length from 8 - 10 inches. General coloration gray or reddish-brown. There are usually several large tan colored spots behind the head; a light tan stipe down the back, normally bordered by two rows of small dark brown spots. Belly is pink or red. Ranges over the lower two-thirds of Missouri.



FIAT-HEAD SNAKE (*Tantilla gracilia*). Length 7 - 9 inches. General coloration is grayish tan to light brown with no markings. Head dark brown, belly pink. This small, smooth snake may at first be mistaken for an earth worm. Ranges throughout the Ozarks and into western Missouri.



WESTERN EARTH SNAKE (*Virginia valeriae elegans*). Length 7 - 10 inches. This small rather non-descript snake may have a tan, brown, or reddish-brown color above. Belly plain cream colored. The head is cone shaped and may have a dark line from eye to nostril. A light tan line may be present along the back. This species ranges over most of Missouri.



If more people would take the time to learn about these harmless snakes found in Missouri, chances are fewer of these interesting and inoffensive creatures being needlessly destroyed. It is hard to think of a more repulsive sight than to see a 180 pound man killing a completely harmless 8 inch snake that weighs less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.

Focus on the



Betty Wilson

#### UPDATE ON HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT (HB 318)

Proper disposal of hazardous wastes in order to protect the water, air and land is of primary importance in Missouri. Only recently have we given these dangerous discards attention by submitting a bill (HB 318) to the state legislature. This legislation was discussed in detail in the Bulletin of February-March 1977.

HB 318 was approved by the House Committee on Parks, REcreation and Natural Resources on February 16, by a vote of 13 to 3 with four members absent. It was perfected on March 14.

To emphasize this legislation's importance the following are documented cases of hazardous waste mismanagement in Missouri:

February, 1968, a worker was killed, another critically injured while disposing of cyanide waste and concentrated acids at the City of Springfield landfill. These wastes, produced by a Springfield metal plating shop, when mixed produce hydrogen cyanide, a deadly gas.

In mid-1970, a pesticide applicator dumped unused Endrin into the Cuivre River at Moscow Mills. As estimated 100,000 fish were killed, and the river was closed to fishing for one year by the Conservation Commission.

Also in 1970, the Kansas City water supply developed objectionable tastes and odors. The problem was traced to phenol-saturated fiber-glass waste dumped along the Missouri riverbank upstream of the water plant intake.

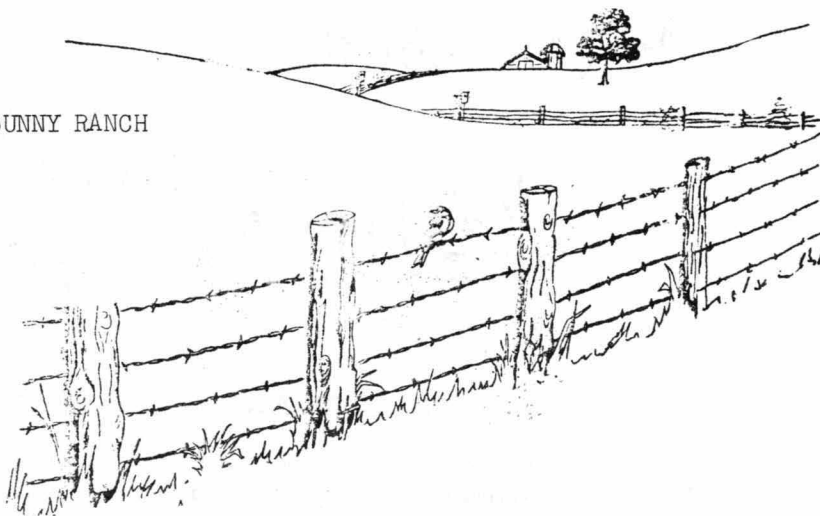
In 1970-71, a Springfield pharmaceutical firm leased plant facilities in Verona to an out-of-state chemical manufacturer. Waste from this operation was taken in early 1971 by a waste oil hauler and spread on farms and horse arenas in New Bloomfield, St. James, Fenton and Moscow Mills. This waste was later found to contain a deadly chemical, dioxin. As a result of this single incident, one child came close to death, nine other humans were severely affected, 63 show horses and hundreds of pets and wild animals were killed. At least two of the stables were forced out of business and over \$500,000 in lawsuits resulted. (Contaminated soil from these stables was transferred to a state highway construction site in Lincoln County, to a landfill in Callaway County, and to houses as a yard-fill in Fenton and Imperial—all before the cause of the problem was identified.) Waste oil storage tanks in Frontenac are believed to have held the poisonous waste at one point, and 4,600 gallons of it remain at the plant at Verona. The Missouri Division of Health, the U.S. Communicable Disease Center, DNR and the Springfield pharmaceutical company, have all spent enormous amounts of time and money unraveling this incident and attempting to find a safe disposal method for the remaining waste.

By the time you read this, HB 318 should be passed by the House of Representatives. The bill will be ready for consideration by the Senate about April 12. Please write or talk to your state Senator and urge his support for HB 318.

MAY NATURE OUTING AND WORKSHOPS AT SUNNY RANCH

SUNDAY, MAY 8

Once again members and guests of the St. Louis Audubon Society will be privileged to enjoy the hospitality of Burrell and Ruby Pickering at Sunny Ranch near Foristell, Mo. On Sunday May 8, we have all been invited to spend the day with the Pickerings. Plan to arrive after 10:00.



Activities will be geared to both novice and expert alike, and will be conducted by experienced naturalists in the form of nature workshops. These will be in the fields of birds, insects, pond life, wildflowers, mushrooms, trees and geology. For your convenience the Pickerings will erect signs identifying the names of the leaders and the area in which each workshop will be held.

In addition to the workshop sessions, hikes of varying length can be made over the well-marked trails maintained by the Pickerings.

This will be a very special day, so bring your family, friends, field guides and food and join in the all-day fun and learning experience. There's no day like the May Day at Sunny Ranch. You All Come!

**DIRECTIONS:** West on I-70 to the Foristell Exit, a distance of about 32 miles west of Lindbergh. Turn left and head south on Highway T for 5 miles to Highway M. Turn right on M and proceed for 1-1/2 miles to Highway O. Turn left on O and drive another 2 miles to the Sunny Ranch gate, which is painted red and is marked with a sign on a pole. Enter and drive 1/2 mile to the Pickering home.



SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY'S FIRST EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Martin Schweig, President of the Saint Louis Audubon Society, is announcing the appointment of Mrs. Earl Hath as the Society's first Executive Secretary. Mr. Schweig said, "Connie will work closely with the officers and members of the board of directors to coordinate and strengthen our organization's impact on the community and expand educational projects. Connie's interest, knowledge and devotion to the Audubon Society has been long standing, shared with her late husband who served as President for many years. Her professional experience, her expertise in public relations and business will be enormously effective as we strive to meet our increasing responsibilities concerning conservation and environmental issues and problems."



#### FOREST PARK BIRD WALKS

The annual Forest Park Bird Walks will be held the last two Sundays in April and the first two Sundays in May. These are interesting and well known for the number of warblers seen. Meet in back of the Art Museum at 8:00 a.m.

April 17, Claudia Spener will be the leader. On Sunday, April 24, Martin Schweig, President of the Society, will coordinate the leaders. Sunday, May 8 and again on May 15, the leaders will be Jack VanBenthuyssen, Tom Brooks and Bill Brush.



#### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The program committee is working very hard to offer a spectacular program for the general membership meeting to held on Friday, June 10, at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road. The officers and board of directors will welcome you at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be outstanding and one you will not want to miss.



#### INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

Join in the activities of the Nature Photography section of the St. Louis Audubon Society. To be put on the mailing list of The Viewfinder, a calendar of meetings and events of the photography group, send you name, address with zip code to Audubon Photography, 8410 Madeline Drive, St. Louis, 63114. Even if you don't know your MMs from your F-stop, you should be talking to the members of the photography group.

#### AUDUBON NATURE TOUR

Don't pass up this trip. Send your registration form and check in as soon as you receive your Bulletin. Not many spaces are left, and time is short for you to become a VIP.







## NATURE NOTEBOOK

Millie Blaha  
Cedar Mountain, N. C.

It was mid-morning, and though there was sunshine and blue skies, a brisk wind made a warm jacket a necessity on this February day in southern Florida. It produced temperatures one would not expect when quietly viewing an alligator basking on a hammock beyond an open lagoon carpeted with water lettuce and bordered with centuries-old cypress trees.

Everywhere there was evidences that the icy fingers of winter earlier had extended as far south as Collier County where Corkscrew Swamps Sanctuary is located.

No flashy billboards pointed the way to this 11,000 acres of primeval wilderness, owned and watched over by the National Audubon Society. The sign at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Florida 846 just south of Bonita Springs indicating the turn-off was almost missed. The 21-mile drive on a good, but narrow, improved road undoubtedly discourages side trips to this remote preserve by the average visitor to Florida.

Only 35,000 persons find their way to Corkscrew Swamp each year, about the same number which visit Disney World in a single day. Unlike Disney World, Corkscrew Swamp is not an amusement park, but is an unforgettable remnant of original Florida wilderness.

The Audubon Society carefully points out in its brochure that the Sanctuary contains no rides, no refreshment stands, and has no captive animals on display and does not permit picnicking, overnight camping or animal pets within the sanctuary boundaries.

No attempt is made to package and sell wildlife values to the visitor. The wilderness sets its own terms as one strolls beneath a cathedral-like stand of virgin bald cypress on a mile-and-a-half narrow board walk a few feet above the swamp water. The clamoring of pileated and red-bellied woodpeckers was a contrast to the thin notes of the tiny warblers.

The wood storks are one of the most famous attractions. Interestingly it is falling water levels, not increasing day length, which is the most important factor in determining their breeding season. Cardinals, titmice, chickadees, Carolina wrens and many warblers flitted about in the open, sunny brushy areas. A barred owl, nestled in the crotch of a tree, slept unaware of the passing parade on the board walk not twenty feet away.

Water levels fluctuate between extremes of wet and dry. One of the ways plants adept is to adjust to an aerial life style. Epiphytes, orchids and bromeliads decorate the tree trunks. Ferns were abundant in the swamps, and ranged in size from the huge leather fern to the tiny resurrection fern.

The value of the luxuriant loveliness of the abundant and varied vegetation and the dramatic birdlife, reptiles and animals dwelling in this fragment of primeval wilderness a million years from civilization, should become more significant and more treasured with each passing year.

## THE AUDUBON SCENE



### IMPORTANT NATIONAL CONVENTION NOTICE

The deadline for registration has been extended to April 29. You still have time to join in this exciting new family style convention at YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado, adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park.

SEE pages 8 and 9 of your February-March, 1977, St. Louis Audubon Bulletin for details and registration forms. If you plan to go let us know...we have plans for you.

### SUPREME COURT REJECTS CHALLENGE TO CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

The Environmental Protection Agency's power to set industry-wide standards to control the dumping of wastes into the nation's waterways has been unanimously upheld by the Supreme Court. Although EPA has been widely believed to hold such power, the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act are enormously complicated, and several large chemical companies brought suit claiming the law only gave the agency the right to set guidelines on an industry-wide basis and that it was up to the states to apply them, plant by plant.

The industry interpretation was upheld in the lower courts, but the Supreme Court rejected it and said that the national standards are legal so long as provision is made for variances in special cases. This puts the burden of proof on the individual plant that asks to be exempted from the industry's standard, and leaves the EPA program intact.

### DR. STAHR AND THREE OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS REPRESENTING 21 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN BACKING PRESIDENT'S HALT OF WATER PROJECT FUNDS

At a press conference in Washington, D.C. February 28, Audubon President Elvis J. Stahr, National Wildlife Federation Executive Vice President Tom Kimball, John Burdick, Executive Director of the Citizens' Committee on Natural Resources and Brent Blackwelder, the top water resources management lobbyist for the Environmental Policy Center--representing 21 conservation organizations with a combined membership of some 4.5-million--announced a nationwide campaign for citizen's support of President Carter's decision to halt funding of 19 water resource projects pending a review to be completed April 15 to determine whether they are economically and environmentally justified.

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Yellow-headed blackbird by Carl Kurtz

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# APRIL 1977

<b>REFERENCE TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b> St. Louis Audubon Society ..... 771-2731 or 965-8642 Webster Groves N.S. Society..... 771-2731 Sierra Club..... 727-3995 Nature Conservancy ..... 993-4926 Coalition for Environment..... 727-0600					<b>1</b>  Audubon Society Film 8 p.m. Ethical Society 9001 Clayton Rd.	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>  WGNSS Field Trip Rockwoods Reserva- tion. 10 a.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Audubon Photo Slide Show. 7:45 p.m., Clayton Federal, Elm & Lockwood	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  WGNSS Thursday Birding, Call 961-2583 or 531-1748.	<b>8</b>  Sierra Club Backpack Irish Wilderness, Call 771-0076.	<b>9</b>  Sierra Club Backpack
<b>10</b>  Sierra Club Backpack	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  WGNSS Thursday Birding	<b>15</b>  WGNSS Annual Ban- quet 6 p.m., Heritage House	<b>16</b>  WGNSS Field Trip Hawn State Park. Call 863-9346.
<b>17</b>  Audubon Photography Walk, 10 a.m. Audubon Forest Park Bird Walk 8 a.m. WGNSS Botany Trip 10 a.m., call 352-2750	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Audubon Board Meet- ing, 8 p.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  WGNSS Thursday Birding	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  WGNSS Botany Field Trip, 10 a.m.
<b>24</b>  Audubon Bird Walk Forest Park, 8 a.m. Meet back of Art Museum.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  WGNSS Thursday Birding	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Audubon Bird Walk Creve Coeur Co. Park 8 a.m., Greensfelder Pavilion.

# MAY 1977

1 Audubon Bird Walk Forest Park, 8 a.m.	2	3 Audubon Photo Meets Clayton Federal S & L 7:45 p.m.	4	5 WGNSS Thursday Birding, call 961-2583	6	7 Audubon Big Day Count, Call results 965-8642 Audubon Bird Walk Creve Coeur Park 8 a.m.
8 Nature Workshop at Sunny Ranch, 10 a.m. Audubon Bird Walk Forest Park, 8 a.m.	9	10	11	12 WGNSS Thursday Birding	13 Nature Conservancy Annual Meeting Bennett Spring State Park	14 Nature Conservancy Annual Meeting
15	16 Audubon Annual Dinner, St. Louis University 6 p.m.	17	18	19 WGNSS Thursday Birding	20	21 Audubon Tour Leaves for Mingo
22 Audubon Tour at Mingo Audubon Photo Walk Little Creek Wildlife Area, 2295 Dunn Rd. 10 a.m.	23	24	25	26 WGNSS Thursday Birding	27	28
29	30	31 JUNE 1 Audubon Photo Meets Clayton Federal at 7:45 p.m.	SAT. JUNE 4 Audubon Photo Sec- tion all day field trip, Rice Lodge. Leaders- Ed and Lee Mason. Call 427-6311		REFERENCE TELEPHONE NUMBERS St. Louis Audubon Society ..... 771-2731 or 965-8642 Webster Groves N.S. Society ..... 771-2731 Sierra Club ..... 727-3995 Nature Conservancy..... 993-4926 Coalition for Environment ..... 727-0600	

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TICKET

**St. Louis Audubon Society  
Annual Meeting and Dinner  
Monday, May 16, 1977**

Sesquicentennial Room  
Busch Memorial Center  
St. Louis University  
(see map on back of ticket)

Dinner — \$7.25  
(Choice of entree:  
London broil or  
Vegetarian plate with Quiche)  
Cash Bar — 6 to 7 P.M.  
(Fruit juices available)  
Dinner — 7 P.M.

*Guests welcome  
Reservations must be  
received by  
Friday, May 13, 1977*

Retain this stub to present at door.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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